

November 10, 2006

Dear Colleague,

This Chapter, in partnership with the RI Department of Health, is embarking on an exciting new project, *Watch Me Grow Rhode Island*.

The goals of *Watch Me Grow Rhode Island* are to:

- ✓ Improve rates of developmental screening for young children so that developmental and behavioral concerns are identified early
- ✓ Facilitate early access to developmental intervention services
- ✓ Improve communication between parents, child care providers, health care providers, and community services

This month, the project will begin a pilot in the Washington County area. Using the Ages & Stages Questionnaire and the Early Childhood Screening Assessment, child care teachers will screen children at regular intervals for developmental and behavioral concerns. Child care providers will provide parents with the results of the screening and encourage parents to speak with the child's pediatrician should a concern be identified. In addition, participating pediatric offices will conduct standardized screening at selected well-child visits.

If a child in your practice attends one of the participating child care centers, you may receive a copy of the screening results (from the parent or child care provider) along with a request for your assistance in further assessing the child and referring to appropriate specialty or community services.

Earlier this year, we completed a survey of pediatrician practice regarding developmental services for young children. We thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey. A summary of the results is included here.

Should you have any questions about *Watch Me Grow Rhode Island* or are interested in learning more about the project, please contact Tammy Camillo at (401) 222-4354 or Tammy.Camillo@health.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

Frank Donahue
Executive Director

Andrew Snyder
President

Bill Hollinshead
Department of Health